

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 8-11, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,320,562 B1 to Ueno et al. ("Ueno").

Claims 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno as applied to claim 1 in item 3 hereinabove, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,748,277 to Huang et al. (hereinafter "Huang").

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno as applied to claim 2 in item 4 hereinabove, and further in view of Huang.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno taken with Huang as applied to claim 6 in item 5 hereinabove.

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno as applied to claim 10 in item 3 hereinabove, and further in view of Huang.

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno taken with Huang as claim 15 is applied to claim 14 in item 7 hereinabove, and claims 16 and 17 as independent claims; and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,603 to Knapp ("Knapp").

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno as applied to claim 1 in item 3 hereinabove, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,252,571 B1 to Nomura et al. ("Nomura").

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno as applied to claim 18 in item 3 hereinabove, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,113 B1 to Yamazaki et al. ("Yamazaki").

Claims 22 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 24 and 25 are allowed.

Formal Replacement drawings are being submitted herewith.

Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 22 and 23. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

The allowance of claims 24 and 25, by the Examiner, is noted with appreciation.

The objection to claims 22 and 23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted with appreciation.

The limitations of claims 22 and 23 have been added to claims 16 and 17, from which they depended, respectively. Therefore, amended claims 16 and 17 are claims 22 and 23 rewritten in independent form, respectively, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner.

New claims 26-33 have been added. Each of the claims is dependent from one of claims 16 and 17, which are claims 22 and 23 in independent form, and claims 24 and 25, which have been indicated as allowable. Therefore, all of claims 26-33 are dependent upon claims that the Examiner has indicated are allowable. Therefore, claims 26-33 are also allowable.

Claims 1-15 and 18-23 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all remaining claims have been indicated as allowable or are dependent from a claim that has been indicated as allowable.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.


If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
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Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Douglas A. Sorensen
Registration No. 31,570
Attorney for Applicants

DAS/rb:bar
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3482
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
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